(c) if so, to what extent this action plan has been helpful for weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. APCO has reported that it has prepared a production plan worth Rs. 30.00 crores for 430 primaries of different districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is expected that the production programme issued to societies would help to generate additional work for 50,000 member weavers families throughout the year and ensure viability of the societies.

Decline in Export of Readymade Garments

428. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of readymade garments is showing a continuously declining trend during the last six months *vis-a-vis* the export during the corresponding period of last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have taken or propose to take any measures to reverse the trend and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per latest available DGCI&S data upto April 2001, the exports of readymade garments amounted to US$ 2675.5 Million during the period November 2000-April, 2001 as compared to US$ 2644.9 Million during the corresponding period of 1999-2000, recording an increase of 1.2%

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen and promote readymade garment exports. Some of the important initiatives are as under:

(1) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector.

(2) A conference of State Ministers and Secretaries incharge of Textiles was held on 10.4.2001 of emphasise partnership of the States in overall production and development of garments.

(3) A sum of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for creating clusters of excellence, i.e., apparel parks for production and export of garments.

(4) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade. Inter-Ministerial Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to assistance under TUFS has been constituted. Weaving, processing and garments machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at rate of 50%.

(5) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(6) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.

(7) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%.

(8) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

(9) To prepare and sensitise out textile and garment industry to

conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

Development of textiles industries in Tamil Nadu

429. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) the total amount spent by Government in Tamil Nadu on the development of textiles industries during the last five years;

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote the garments sector in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether Government have assessed the progress in production and the conditions of weavers in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) whether Government have undertaken any remedial measures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) State-wise allocations are not made in the Ministry's budget. However, details of amounts spent from the plan outlay for development of textile and textile based activities including handicrafts during last five years is given below:

(Rs.Crores)

Year	Outlay	Expenditure
1997-1998	259.00	234.98
1998-1999	260.00	239.33
1999-2000	266.00	251.47
2000-2001	457.00	404.64(P)
2001-2002	665.00	140.99*

(P)-Provisional

Upto 13.07.2001 (latest available)